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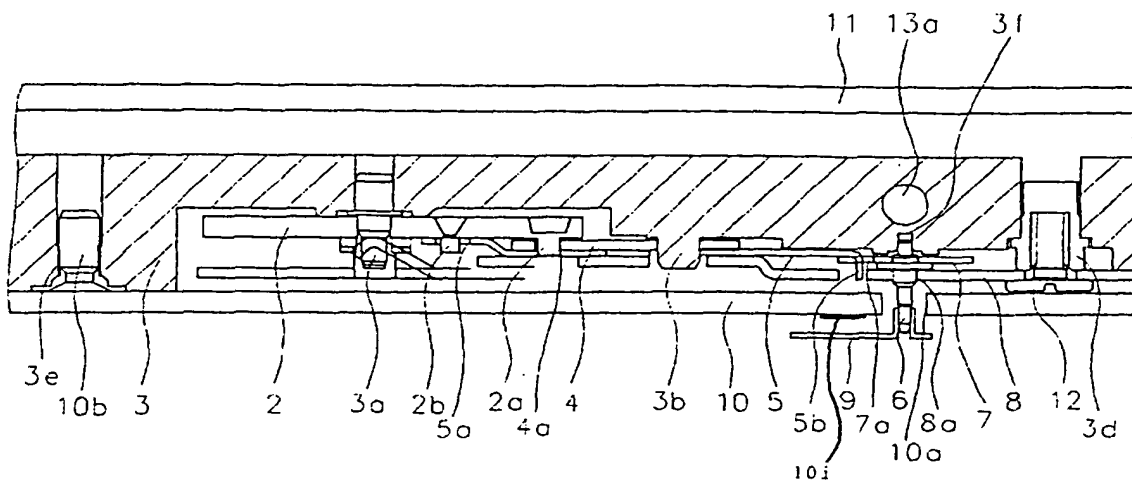
(54) Alarm electronic timepiece

(57) Alarm function switching indication is made easy to see, and alarm switching indication for easy design development is provided.

The axial switching operation of an external operate stem is converted into the rotation by an alarm switch

lever and an alarm indicator axle via the operation of a setting lever. An alarm setting indicator hand is attached to the tip end of the alarm indicator axle, by which the alarm function switching indication is given on the upper face of a dial by the alarm setting indicator hand.

FIG. 2



Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an alarm electronic timepiece having a function switching indication means provided with an alarm mechanism.

As shown in FIG. 6, in a conventional function switching indication means, an alarm switching mechanism is operated by the operation of an external operate stem 14, by which an alarm switch lever 15 is moved. The alarm switch lever 15 has a colour indicator 15a formed by printing so as to discriminate the switching indication. By the operation of the alarm switch lever, a printed portion 15a of the alarm switch lever 15 is indicated through a window 16a of a dial 16 for a visual check of the function switching.

In such function switching indication means, the dial requires the window for indication, and the alarm switch lever requires a colour print or character print formed thereon. The indication under the dial and the rotation angle of the alarm switch lever are limited, so that the window shape cannot be increased, resulting in a difficulty in looking at the switching indication. Also, the design is limited, so that design development is difficult.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, this invention provides an alarm electronic timepiece in which an alarm function switching indication means is provided in an alarm switching mechanism, by which alarm switching indication is given on the upper face of a dial by an alarm setting indicator hand.

In another aspect, this invention provides an alarm electronic timepiece comprising an alarm switching mechanism including manually operable means, and indicator means coupled to said manually operable means for providing a visual indication of the status of the alarm, characterised in that the indicator means comprises a visual indication formed on the visible face of a dial and hand or flap means coupled for movement to the manually operable means, for selectively covering or displaying the visual indication.

According to the present invention, the axial switching operation of the external operable stem is converted into rotation of the alarm switch lever and an alarm indicator axle. A hand is attached to the tip end of the alarm indicator axle, and a switching indication portion is provided on the upper face of the dial. Thus, by giving the function switching indication on the upper face of the dial, the switching indication is easy to see, and the design development is made easy. Since the indication structure is simple, the assembly of switching parts is also easy.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a plan view of a switching indication structure for an alarm electronic timepiece in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a sectional view of a switching indication structure for an alarm electronic timepiece in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view of a switching indication structure for an alarm electronic timepiece in accordance with the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a plan view of another embodiment of a structure in which an alarm indicator axle is rotated.

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of another embodiment of a structure in which an alarm indicator axle is rotated.

FIG. 6 is a plan view of a conventional switching indication structure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the alarm electronic timepiece in accordance with the present invention, a correction mechanism, which can correct the alarm setting time by using the external operate stem, is provided with a function switching indication means.

The function switching indication means gives the indication printed on the upper face of the dial by using an alarm setting indicator hand. An axle to which the alarm setting indicator hand is attached is rotated by the operation of the external operate stem. The axial operation of the external operate stem is converted into the rotation of the alarm indicator axle by a lever member, for example.

Also, since the axial operation of the external operate stem is converted into the rotation of the alarm indicator axle, a tooth form is formed on the lever member to engage with a tooth form of the alarm indicator axle. The lever member is rotated by the engagement between the lever member and the external operate stem. Since the tooth form formed on the lever member and the tooth form on the alarm indicator axle are engaged with each other, the alarm indicator axle is rotated.

Embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. FIG. 1 is a plan view of a switching indication structure for an alarm electronic timepiece of one embodiment in accordance with the present invention. FIGS. 2 and 3 are sectional views of a switching indication structure for an alarm electronic timepiece of one embodiment in accordance with the present invention.

In FIGS. 1 to 3, reference numeral 1 denotes an external operate stem. By pulling out the external operate stem 1, an engaging setting lever 2 is rotated around a center shaft 3a driven in a main plate 3. A yoke 4 rotates around a center shaft 3b, and performs the positioning of rotation of the setting lever 2 by the engagement between a pin 2a formed on the setting lever 2 and an an-

gle 4a of the yoke 4. A pin 2b formed on the setting lever 2 engages with a window 5a formed on an alarm switch lever 5. The alarm switch lever 5 is rotate by a center shaft 3c, and this rotation is activated by the setting lever 2. The alarm switch lever 5 is provided with an arm 5b in the direction opposite to a portion engaging with the setting lever 2. An alarm indicator plate 7 is driven to an alarm indicator axle 6, and has a window 7a. The rotation center of the alarm indicator axle is supported by a mortice 3f arranged at an upper part 13a of a winding stem 13 supported at the side of the main plate 3, for example, and a mortice 8a formed in a support for dial side parts 8. The end of the arm 5b of the alarm switch lever 5 is provided with a bend, which engages with the window 7a formed in the alarm indicator plate 7 driven to the alarm indicator axle 6. The rotation of the alarm switch lever 5 rotates the alarm indicator axle 6 by the arm 5b of the alarm switch lever 5 and a window 7a formed in the alarm indicator plate 7. The setting lever 2, yoke 4, alarm switch lever 5, and alarm indicator axle 6 are supported by the support for dial side parts 8. The support for dial side parts 8 is fixed to a pin 3d driven in the main plate 3 by using a screw 12 etc. The alarm indicator axle 6 is fitted with an alarm setting indicator hand 9 to give switching indication 10i printed on a dial 10.

The operation of the alarm switching indication structure in accordance with the present invention will be described in detail. When the external operate stem is pulled out, the setting lever 2 is rotated around the center shaft 3a of the main plate 3. The pin 2b formed on the setting lever 2 and the window 5a formed in the alarm switch lever 5 are engaged with each other, so that the alarm switch lever 5 is rotated around the center shaft 3b. The other end of the alarm switch lever 5 is provided with a contact portion 5c which is in contact with a switch pattern 11a of a circuit block 11. By the rotation of the setting lever, the alarm switch lever 5 is rotated around the center shaft 3c. By the rotation of the alarm switch lever 5, the contact portion 5c of the alarm switch lever 5 comes into contact with the switch pattern 11a of the circuit block 11, by which electrical function switching is effected. When the external operate stem 1 is pulled, the contact portion 5c of the alarm switch lever 5 comes into contact with the switch pattern 11a of the circuit block 11, so that electrical ON state is established. Also, the arm 5b of the alarm switch lever 5 engages with the window 7a formed on the dial 7 driven to the alarm indicator axle 6, by which the alarm indicator axle 6 is rotated. The dial 10 is provided with a hole 10a through which the alarm indicator axle 6 passes. The dial 10 is fixed by screwing a pin 10b formed on the back face of the dial 10 into a dial hole 3e formed in the main plate 3. The alarm indicator axle 6 is fitted with the alarm setting indicator hand 9, and the content of switching indication is printed on the upper face of the dial 10 in the rotation range of the alarm setting indicator hand 9. By the rotation of the alarm indicator axle 6, the alarm

setting indicator hand 9 gives the switching indication printed on the upper face of the dial 10. Therefore, simultaneously with electrical function switching, the function switching indication can be given on the upper face of the dial 10 by a hand.

FIG. 4 is a plan view showing another embodiment of a structure for rotating the alarm indicator axle 6. FIG. 5 is a sectional view showing another embodiment of a structure for rotating the alarm indicator axle 6. In FIGS. 4 and 5, a tooth form is formed at the end of an arm 5d of the alarm switch lever 5, and a tooth form is also formed on the alarm indicator axle 6. By the arrangement in which the tooth form of the alarm switch lever 5 engages with the tooth form of the alarm indicator axle 6, the rotation of the alarm switch lever 5 is transmitted to the alarm indicator axle 6, by which the alarm indicator axle 6 is rotated. By the rotation of the alarm indicator axle 6, the alarm setting indicator hand 9 can give the switching indication printed on the upper face of the dial 10.

According to the present invention, in the alarm function switching indication means for an alarm electronic timepiece, by the operation of the external operate stem, the alarm setting indicator hand attached to the alarm indicator axle gives the switching indication printed on the upper face of the dial, so that the switching indication is easy to see. Also, because of the indication by a hand, the design development is also made easy. The switching indication structure in accordance with the present invention can arrange parts in a limited space and can be constructed easily.

The foregoing description has been given by way of example only and it will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention.

Claims

1. An alarm electronic timepiece in which an alarm function switching indication means (9, 10i) is provided in an alarm switching mechanism (2-11), by which alarm switching indication (10i) is given on the upper face of a dial (10) by an alarm setting indicator hand (9).
2. An alarm electronic timepiece comprising an alarm switching mechanism (1-11) including manually operable means (1), and indicator means (9, 10i) coupled to said manually operable means for providing a visual indication of the status of the alarm, characterised in that the indicator means comprises a visual indication (10i) formed on the visible face of a dial (10) and hand or flap means (9) coupled for movement to the normally operable means, for selectively covering or displaying the visual indication.
3. An alarm electronic timepiece according to claim 1

or 2, wherein the hand or flap means (9) is coupled for movement to manually operable means by at least one lever means (2, 5).

4. An alarm electronic timepiece according to claim 3, wherein the hand or flap means is coupled to a switching lever (5) which is rotated by the rotation of a setting lever (2) which receives the movement of an externally manually operatable stem (1). 5
5. An alarm electronic timepiece according to any preceding claim, wherein the hand or flap means is mounted for rotation on an axle (6) and coupled for movement via lever means to the manually operable means (1). 10 15
6. An alarm electronic timepiece according to claim 5, wherein a rotation transmitting means for the hand or flap means comprises an axle having a tooth form (6) engaging with a tooth form (6b) formed on a switching lever. 20
7. An alarm electronic timepiece according to claims 1 to 6, wherein the switching indication means is arranged at the upper part of a winding stem. 25

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FIG. 1

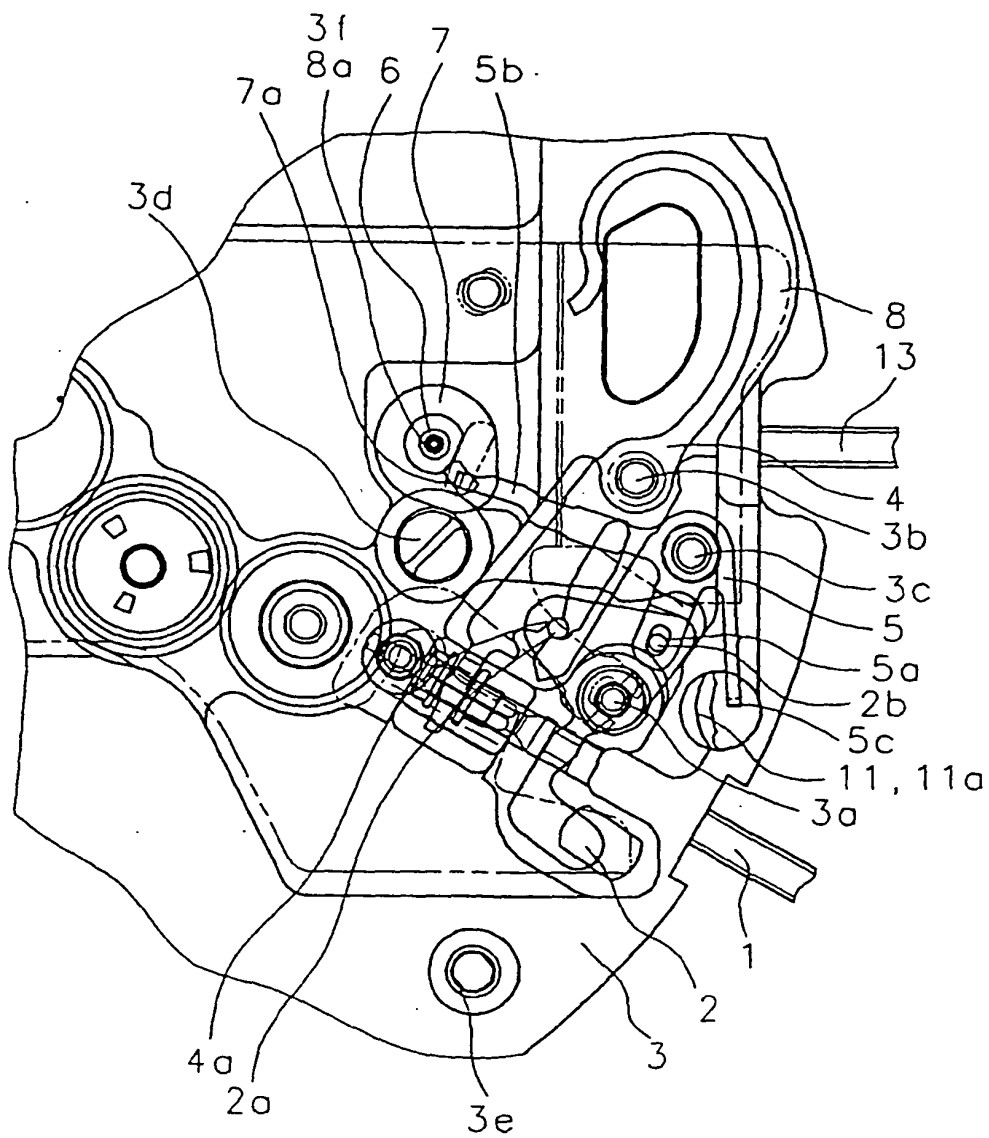


FIG. 2

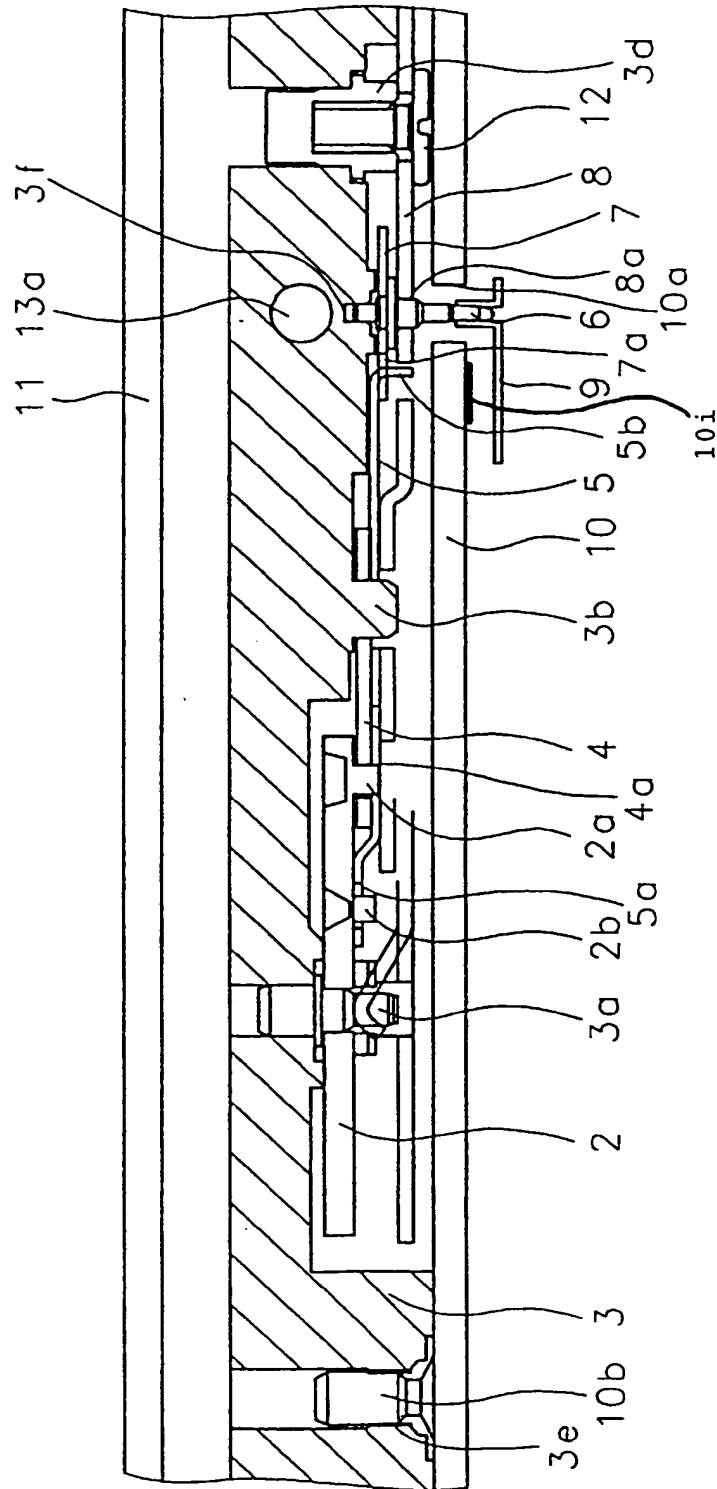


FIG. 3

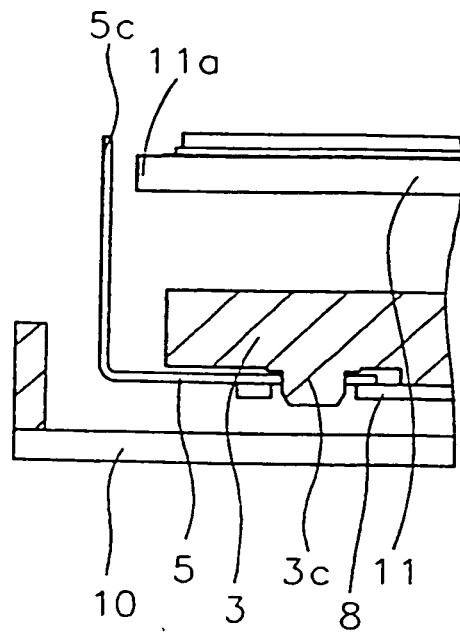


FIG. 4

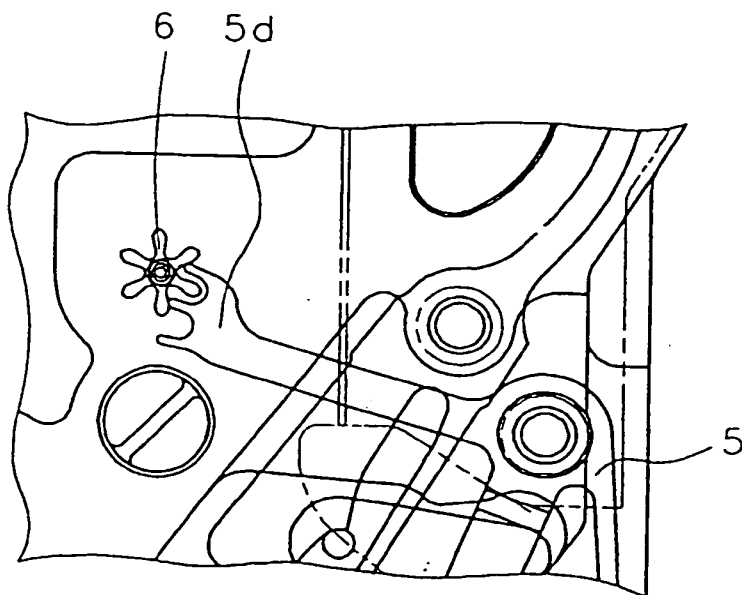


FIG. 5

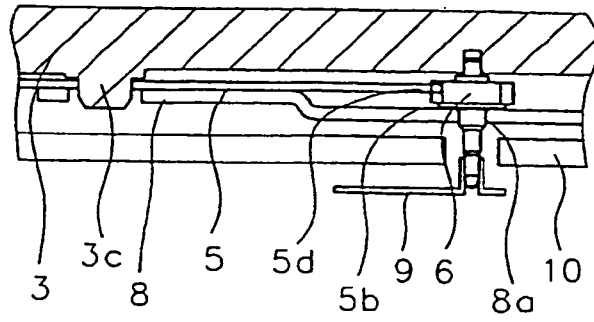
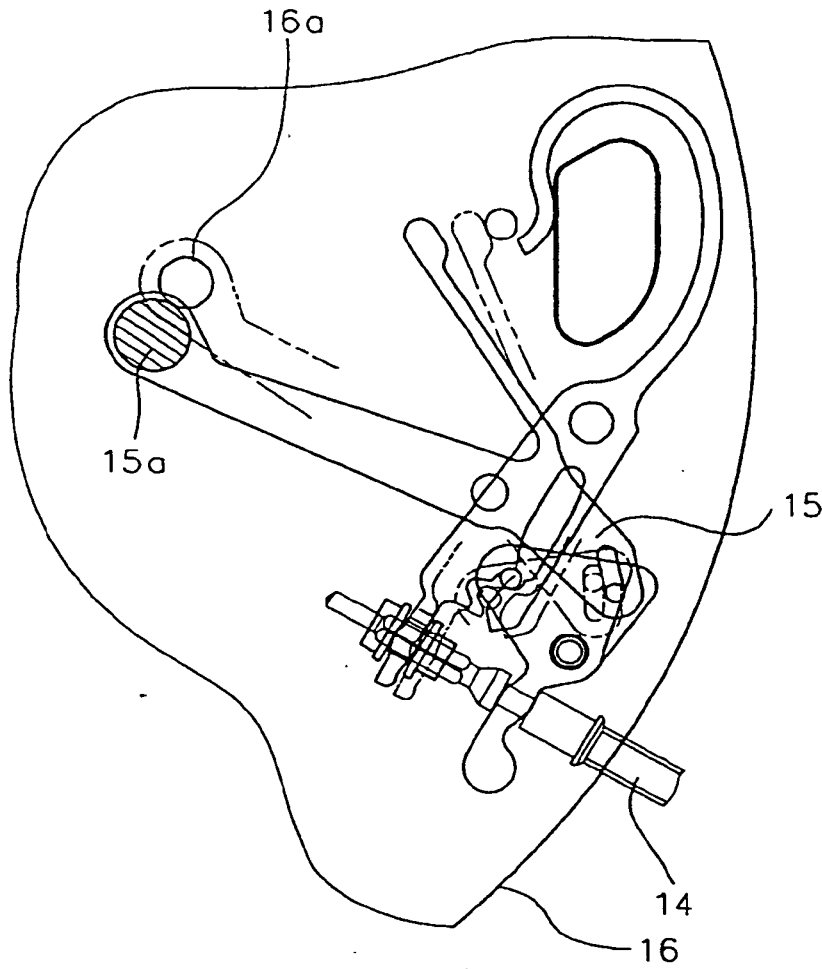
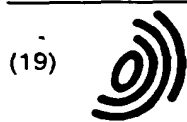


FIG. 6
PRIOR ART





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(30) Priority: 11.10.1996 JP 27013296

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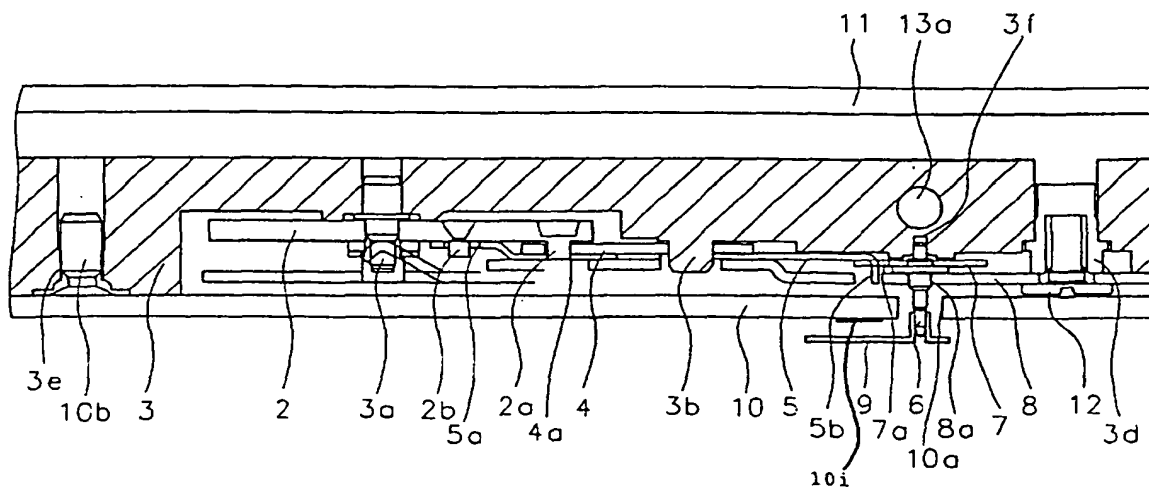
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FIG. 2



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European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 7250

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A	DE 94 09 689 U (DIGI TECH GES FUER DEN VERTRIE) 3 November 1994 (1994-11-03) * page 3, paragraph 3 * * figures 1,3 *	1,2	G04B23/02
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A	DE 42 13 780 A (FLIER GUSTAV) 28 October 1993 (1993-10-28) * the whole document *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G04B G04C
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		17 November 2000	Papastefanou, E
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EP 97 30 7250

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